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1824

### Manuscript for the National Republican, The American System

Unknown

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The American System.

The Editor of the Cincinnati Gazette, in his paper of the 28th inst. has deemed it necessary to attempt to explain away his arguments of 1824 against Adams' re-election is quite amusing, and is another evidence of the ingenuity of men, at evening when they are completely "cornered." His first effort is, to convince the readers of the Gazette that I have used a "miserable piece of sophistry," by stating that I can prove from his writings, that Mr. Adams is opposed to the "American System," when the evidence adduced does not justify the inference, but only convinces the public that he was. In attempting the Editor's zeal to prove his devotedness to Mr. Adams, and virtually hold out the idea that his remarks were merely intended to exhibit his policy as to the "American System" in 1809, he loses sight of one important sentence of his article of 1824. It is this:—"Mr. Adams has no claims on the western people, for any thing he has ever done to promote their interests or views of internal policy." A plain, common-sense reader, unacquainted with the usages of political language, would draw the conclusion, from this remark, that to the year 1824, Mr. Adams had not performed a single act, or offered one resolution, that would justify the opinion that he was in favor of the real American System. He will concede, for the sake of argument, and to avoid the imputation of resorting to sophistry, that it was the intention of the Editor of the Gazette, at the time he permeated the article quoted in the Republican, to show that Mr. Adams was opposed to the "American System". The arguments then used, and the reasoning used as causes of objection to Mr. Adams' election, must still be in full force, unless his subsequent acts give decisive evidence of his change of policy, and relinquishment of the principles he advocated, from early life, to 1824. The only quotation made by the Gazette, as evidence of his devotion to manufactures, &c. is quite the reverse from that intended to be proved, by its introduction. We are told



that the evidence of Mr. Adams' friendship to the American System is abundant and convincing; and yet, after this sweeping declaration, the following paragraph, from his inaugural address, is all that can be placed in requisition by the editor, to prove his position:—

"Let no consideration," says he to Congress, "induce you to assume the exercise of powers not GRANTED TO YOU BY THE PEOPLE. But if the power to exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever over the District of Columbia; if the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States; if the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes; to fix the standards of weights and measures; to establish post offices and post roads; to declare war; to raise and support armies; to provide and maintain a navy; to dispose of and make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying these powers into execution: If these powers, and others enumerated in the constitution, may be effectually brought into action by laws promoting the improvement of Agriculture, Commerce and Manufactures, the cultivation and encouragement of the Mechanic and the elegant arts, the advancement of Literature, and the progress of the Sciences, ornamental and profound, to refrain from exercising them for the benefit of the People themselves, would be to hide in the earth the talent committed to our charge—would be treachery to the most sacred of trusts."

I must at a loss to understand in what part of the policy is distinctly recognized. To guard against any possibility of the policy casually noticed in the above powers may be effectually brought in can or cannot be given, whether they subject with Mr. Adams it is a doubtful subject not wish to boldly recommend the encouragement of manufactures; but would rather leave it to Congress to determine, at a time more propitious for candid investigation, and when his opinions were clothed in mystery. So far from this extract proving that Mr. Adams is in favor of the American System, its doubtful import will fully justify me in asserting that he has not changed since 1824; and that what the editor's remarks in his paper of that year are the ~~present~~ applicable at the present time. Mr. Munroe was not so fearful of his popularity, but that he could be explicit on the subject. In his message to Congress, in 1823, he says:—

"Having communicated my views to Congress at the <sup>commencement of the</sup> last session, respecting the encouragement which ought to be given to manufactures, and the principle on which it should be founded, I have only to add, that those views remain unchanged, and that the present state of those countries with which we have the most immediate political relations, and greatest commercial intercourse, tends to confirm them. Under this impression, I recommend a review of the tariff for the purpose of affording such additional protection to those articles which we are prepared to manufacture, or which are more

immediately connected with the defence and independence of the country."

Here we have the president recommending a revision of the tariff, maybe the assertion of the Editor of the Gazette, that he never "seldom enters into the detail of any subject recommended to Congress." Details are not called for, and a recommendation is all that is required. This has not been <sup>by the present incumbent,</sup> done, nor can it be shown. Mr. Adams' predecessors noticed such measures as were considered essential to the prosperity of the government. It is maintained by his supporters, that he follows Mr. Munroe's track. If he does, he has stepped in it so lightly, that his foot steps no impression is left after his departure, to direct his successor as to his course. The Editor of the Gazette is requested to re-peruse his remarks of 1824. I think he will see the fallacy of his attempts to whitewash them; and be compelled to say, as he did before, that "A man who left his vote in Congress against the system, and has not opened his mouth on the subject for fifteen [nineteen] years, is too cold for the warm spirit of the times."

I will close this communication, by an extract from the Gazette of April 27, 1824. It will be an additional evidence of the ~~ideas~~ opinions of the Editor in that year, and will materially contribute to the point in issue, which is to prove that Mr. Adams is an enemy to the favorite policy of the west.—  
[See paper]



THE second floor of Store, No. 93, Main-st.  
The premises consisting of a spacious  
room furnished with shelves in front, and a com-  
partment counting-room in the rear, are suitable  
for the wholesale dry goods business. Enquire  
of THOMAS NEWELL on the premises.  
April 30. 644

TO LET.  
57-ft.  
BARR & TARRANT.  
April 22.  
Just received and for sale by  
Y. H. TEA.  
CHESTS superior 1828 Y. H. Tea  
April 24.  
JOSEPH SMITH & CO.  
Wholesale and retail by  
15 "pepper,  
10 bags Linnato,  
20 boxes white pipe,  
20 bbls loaf sugar,  
2 bbls madder,  
10 bbls alum,  
20 "oysters,  
25 kegs Dupont's powder,  
100 boxes tin plate,  
Front-st. opposite s b landing.

that the evidence  
System is abund-  
ing declaration,  
address is all to  
to prove his posi-

I must confess that I am at a loss to understand in  
what part of this extract the "American policy is distinctly re-  
cognized." To qualify a declaration with an if, cannot be  
considered as expressing an opinion of the policy, casually noti-  
ced in the above paragraph. "If these powers may be effectua-  
ally brought into action," &c. &c. opinion is given, whether they  
can or cannot. On the contrary, it is a doubtful sub-  
ject with Mr. Adams. He does not wish to boldly recom-  
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